**Upper Delaware Council**

**PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 25, 2022**

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| Committee Members Present: | Larry Richardson, Andy Boyar, Jim Greier, Fred Peckham (Zoom), Harold Roeder, Sue Sullivan, Ginny Dudko, Al Henry, Jeff Dexter, Aaron Robinson (Zoom) |
| Committee Members Absent: |  |
| Staff: | Laurie Ramie, Kerry Engelhardt, Ashley Hall-Bagdonas |
| NPS Partners: | Cody Hendrix- Community & Land Use Planner (Zoom) |
| Guests:  |  |

The UDC’s Project Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at the UDC office in Narrowsburg, NY. Chairperson Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. There was no public comment on the agenda.

**September 27, 2022 Meeting:** A motion by Boyar seconded by Henry to approve the September 27, 2022 meeting minutes with an abstention by Dudko.

**GIS** **Mapping Tool Presentation by Kerry Engelhardt:** In 2016, Shippensburg University’s CLUS entered a five-year agreement with the National Park Service to develop and launch an effective and efficient spatial decisions support tool to assist with the review of projects within the 55,574.5-acre Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Corridor that includes portions of five counties and 15 towns and townships in New York and Pennsylvania. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping application integrates natural resource data with information on land use regulations and zoning as provided by the communities. It allows enabling numerous data layers and generating reports, and offers more accurate parcel descriptions than paper maps or some public online applications can provide. The project resulted from a request by the UDC to the NPS for technical assistance to supplement the mapping included in the Final 1986 River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River using modern GIS technology. In April 2021 UDC and Dr. Jantz held an instructional training as a free public session. It was particularly appropriate for code enforcement officers, planning and zoning board members, county GIS technicians, and land use consultants in the bi-state river valley region.

 Engelhardt demonstrated an instructional overview and answered questions about the tool’s capabilities. She will send committee members a link to the River Corridor GIS Mapping tool with tutorial instructions and add it to the UDC website, and send that UDC website link to member towns, townships and the five county planning offices.

**Resources and Land Use Specialist Update:**

**New York State Projects**

There have been no posted Notices of Applications Received by the DRBC in the corridor in New York this month.
 **Town of Highland -Highland Access:** Highland Access: Construction on the access has begun. There was a site meeting with stakeholders this past Friday, 10/21, hosted by Heather Jacksy. Engelhardt attended, as did Hendrix, Don Hamilton, Ryan Coulter and another NYSDEC rep, and others. Initial site preparation has revealed an existing stone wall that extends much further along the roadway than was initially thought. They are carefully uncovering the wall but will not disturb it. On Monday morning all of the stakeholders who were invited to that meeting received an email from the Town of Highland Planning Board Chair Norm Sutherland expressing anger and frustration at the site conditions. He cited inadequate and unsafe traffic control, failing soil erosion control measures, and other problems with construction thus far. He indicated that he would cancel the public hearing of Camp FIMFO on Wednesday if these issues were not addressed, as having a project in this condition reflected poorly on the Planning Board. This morning, Ramie received a phone call from Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Rob Doherty who said that he heard that we would be discussing the project tonight. He said that Ed McAndrew at the Sullivan County Division of Public Works was shutting down the job due to worker safety. McAndrew is returning to the area on Friday and will review the job with regard to river safety and averting any possible damage to the river.

**Town of Tusten:** **Cackletown Road:** A jury found that Nico Juarez did intentionally trespass on the Olmans’ property, and damages were set at $1,000. Article from *The River Reporter* is attached.

**Town of Delaware:** Engelhardt is looking into the details of a zoning application she saw in a newspaper legal ad to determine if I is reviewable.

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Projects**

**From the DRBC Notification of Applications Received in August:** There have been no posted Notices of Applications Received by the DRBC in the corridor in Pennsylvania this month.

**Berlin Township:** We received notice that Berlin Township is seeking a grant for $154,642 to support the cost of the construction of a Materials Storage Shed. The associated resolution is attached. Henry said that the building wll be located outside of the corridor, near Marshall’s Machinery.

 **Open Substantial Conformance Reviews**

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| **ProjectId** | **Project** **Name** | **Municipality** | **Action** | **Status** |
| 2022-003 | Camp Fimfo | Highland | Special Use Permit | NPS began their review 9/26. End of 45-day review period is 11/10. |

The first public hearing for Camp FIMFO was held at the Eldred Central School on 9/28. Around 100 people attended, and the meeting lasted about an hour. The applicant gave a brief presentation, and then the public was allowed to speak. Each member of the public was given three minutes to speak. Almost all who spoke were against the project. Many good points were made. If you’d like to see the comments from the public, go to the Highland website (townofhighlandny.com) and go the “Boards & Meetings” menu and then to “Meeting Minutes.” There are posted 37 letters that the Board received, as well as a transcript of the meeting (there was a professional stenographer at the hearing, paid out of the applicant’s escrow). After everyone who wanted to had spoken, the Board recessed the meeting, to be continued on October 26th . At tomorrow night’s meeting, again to be held at the Eldred Central School, the applicant will have the opportunity to address the comments from the September meeting, and anyone who did not speak at the first meeting will have an opportunity to make a comment. The first time, the meeting will be broadcast on Zoom. However, due to the site conditions at the Highland Access, Norm indicated on Monday 10/24 that he was cancelling that meeting. The website has not been updated with a meeting cancellation, but Engelhardt will stay updated on the matter.

 **Old Business**

**10/6 UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee Report:** For all interested at the11/3 6 p.m. UDC-NPS Telecommunications Subcommittee work session, TowerCo representatives will make a virtual presentation geared toward achieving public safety cellular coverage objectives for the Upper Delaware River Valley. Engelhardt is drafting and will circulate notes from the 10/6 Telecommunications Subcommittee to its membership ahead of the next 11/3 session.

**10/19 Penn State Extension Land Use Webinar Report:** Engelhardt said this month's webinar was called “Green Corridors, Blue Corridors: Planning to Protect Our National Assets”. It talked about establishing green corridors through planning in your municipality. They mentioned environmentally valuable areas and focusing on conserving that and creating corridors. Not all blueway or greenway corridors have to have a trail component. It is obviously good to let people have access to these areas, but sometimes their value is just in existing. They also talked about preserving habitat for certain wildlife.

**River Corridor Maps:** Engelhardt presented the first river corridor map to Town of Cochecton Representative Richardson. She will continue overseeing the printing and framing of the river corridor GIS maps to be gifted to member towns and townships by their UDC representatives or alternates when available.

**Other:** Engelhardt will participate in Sullivan County’s “GIS Is Everywhere” Day with a public display highlighting how GIS work has benefited the UDC on 11/16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello.

Ramie and Engelhardt will confirm and publicize a 12/1 UDC meeting presentation on the 3-D Build-Out Visualization Project by Sharon Davis from the National Parks Conservation Association.

Ramie reported that Town of Tusten Planning Board Chairman and past UDC award recipient Ed Jackson passed away on 10/18. She noted that he was prominent in NYS Planning associations and Veterans’ causes.

**New Business**

**Other:** None.

**Adjournment:** A Motion by Greier, seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. carried.

 *Minutes prepared by Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, 10/27/2022*